

NSC BRIEFING

24 July 1960

CUBA

- I. Communist Bloc approaches to Cuba continue.
 - A. Trade pact concluded with Communist China on 23 July represents strong Chinese effort to win diplomatic recognition from Cuba and demonstrates Peiping's willingness to back anti-US movements with considerable material support.
 1. Recognition appears imminent, may be announced on 26 July anniversary of Cuban revolution.
 2. Economic aid agreement expected later this year, under which Peiping to provide industrial equipment and presumably technical assistance to Cuba.
 - B. Raul Castro visit to Moscow resulted last week in communiqué which promised continuing Soviet support to Cuba.
 1. However, communiqué fell short of confirming Khrushchev's earlier reference to possibility of Soviet rocket retaliation against US.
 2. Raul's visit may have been for purpose of putting final touches on arms agreement he may have concluded in Prague.

II. Delegations are arriving in Havana for 26 July opening of Communist-dominated Latin American Youth Congress.

A. Pro-Castro groups in other Latin American countries preparing demonstrations of support for Cuba.

1. Venezuelan Chamber of Deputies unanimously approved resolution of support for "struggle of Cuban people for their national liberation."

a. This may strengthen hand of Venezuela's pro-Castro Foreign Minister Arcaya in his dispute with President Betancourt over treatment of the Castro regime.

2. Student groups in Venezuela, Uruguay, Panama, Brazil, and possibly other countries are planning pro-Cuban demonstrations for 26 July.

III. Increasing security measures reveal Cuban government's concern over internal opposition.

A. Opposition, however, not yet organized.

B. Fidel Castro reportedly being given more security protection to prevent any possible attempts on his life.

C. Militia units under army supervision reported patrolling beach areas of Havana province to prevent exit or entry.

D. Continued arrests of "counterrevolutionaries" indicated [REDACTED]

E. Defections of prominent Cubans continue.

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1. Former President Carlos Prío Socarras is reported ready to seek asylum in a foreign embassy in Havana if not permitted to leave Cuba.
2. Dr. Perez Cisneros, alternate Cuban representative to the OAS Council has resigned. He had been reported at odds with pro-Soviet trend of Cuban Government.

IV. Italian oil magnate Enrico Mattei is considering supplying refinery equipment and technical assistance to Cuban petroleum industry.

- A. When originally asked by Cuba to run its refineries, he refused.
- B. Officials of seized refineries in Cuba say access to replacement parts likely to be biggest problem.